A new Declaration of Independence.

We honor our fathers for declaring their independence of a distant & overbearing Government, which subjected them to petty annoyances, & petty taxations, without granting them a voice in the matter, and which bore itself toward them generally in an arrogant & insulting manner.

Shall we submit quietly to the ~~tyranny~~ existence of a tyranny in our soil, which is continually inflicting on three millions of human souls & bodies a bondage "one hour of which is fraught with more misery than ages of that which our fathers rose in rebellion to resist"? Shall we be passive, supine, subservient to a band of Man-Stealers, Slave-traders, and Kidnappers, when our fathers were willing to be Rebels, rather than submit to the unspeakably lighter, and in the comparison quite inconsiderable tyranny of the British Throne?

It may not be. It must not be.

We must resist those
cruel & wicked laws. ~~Every~~ Every
one ~~of us~~ must resist them, — each
one in such manner, and
with such weapons, as he best
knows to use.

For myself, I do not counsel, for the present, resistance ~~with~~ by violent means, and with weapons of destruction. The time for their use will come, but it has not yet come. The generation is in training which will use them, and which will, with a voice as of many waters, applaud & sustain those who do use them. And surely if ever God's blessing must be invoked upon ~~the~~ weapons of war, - if ever it were lawful & justifiable to resort to violence, - if ever, with a good conscience, we might freely "dare to die", in a struggle with other men, - it must be when we fight to deliver our brethren - the children of the One great Father - from the appalling & never-ceasing woes of slavery, and when we would resist the Tyrants & Villains who would make us their accomplices and their partners in the infliction of these woes on our enslaved & long-suffering brothers.

ms. B. 1.6 v. 13. p. 51